

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 01707 140251Z
ACTION AF-10

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1707

USICA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: JOURNALISM SEMINAR CONTROVERSY

FOLLOWING TWO ARTICLES APPEARED JULY 13:
"RAND DAILY MAIL" (PAGE FOUR) HEADLINE: " CLASH OVER
WHITE JOURNALIST'S TALK". BEGIN TEXT:

" A WHITE JOURNALIST TRAINING OFFICER, MR. LES DUNN,
YESTERDAY TURNED DOWN AN INVITATION TO A JOURNALISM
SEMINAR AFTER THREATS BY BLACK JOURNALISTS TO BOYCOTT
IT IF HE ATTENDED. THE THREAT CAME FROM MEMBERS OF
THE WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (WASA) BECAUSE
OF MR. DUNN'S AFFILIATION TO THE SOUTHERN AFRICA SOCIETY
OF JOURNALISTS (SASJ). MR . DUNN IS HEAD OF THE ARGUS
CADET SCHOOL. THE SEMINAR IS BEING SPONSORED BY THE
UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY
(USICA), THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, AND
WASA. A SPOKESMAN FOR USICA SAID IT HAD ONLY
HEARD OF OBJECTIONS T MR DUNN'S LECTURE BEFORE
THE START OF THE COURSE. PREVIOUSLY WASA HAD
NOT OBJECTED TO THE PROPOSED LECTURE. HOWEVER,
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PAGE 02 JOHANN 01707 140251Z

AT THE RECENT WASA CONGRESS, A DECISION WAS TAKEN
NOT TO HAVE ANY DEALINGS WITH THE SASJ".
END TEXT.

" THE CITIZEN" PAGE 11, HEADLINE " SASJ INCENSED BY
BLACK REBUFF". BEGIN TEXT:

" THE SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY OF JOURNALISTS (SASJ)
HAS REACTED SHARPLY TO A REBUFF METED OUT TO A
MEMBER BY BLACKS ATTENDING A SEMINAR ON JOURNALISM
IN JOHANNESBURG. MR. LES DUNN, INSTRUCTOR AT THE
ARGUS COMPANY'S CADET SCHOOL, HAD BEEN INVITED TO GIVE
A LECTURE, BUT STUDENTS REFUSED TO HEAR HIM BECAUSE HE
WAS A MEMBER OF THE SASJ. THE SEMINAR WAS ORGANIZED
BY THE WRITERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA, WHOSE
MEMBERS ARE BLACK. THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SASJ,
MR. CLIVE EMDON, SAID : ' OUR ORGANIZATION BECAME NON-
RACIAL TWO YEARS AGO. WE DO NOT WANT A CONFRONTATION
WITH THE WRITERS' ASSOCIATION, BUT WE FEEL THEIR
REFUSAL TO BE LECTURED BY MR. DUNN WAS AN AFFRONT.
AS A TRAINING OFFICER OF THE ARGUS CO., HE HAS TRAINED A
NUMBER OF BLACKS EMPLOYED BY HIS COMPANY.'"
END TEXT.
HUGHES

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Message Attributes

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